

Message Text

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FOL REPEAT OF USUN 6108 TO SECSTATE DEC 31

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6108

DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO LA AND CARIBBEAN CAPITALS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA PFOR XM

SUBJ: LATIN AMERICA AT THE 29TH UNGA

SUMMARY: THERE WERE VIRTUALLY NO LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES AS SUCH ON AGENDA OF CURRENT UNGA (EXCEPT FOR MEXICAN INSPIRED CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES (CERDS) AND LA DELEGATIONS IN GENERAL (EXCEPT FOR MEXICO AND CUBA) AGAIN DID NOT PLAY LEADING ROLE. HOWEVER, LA VOTES PROVIDED US WITH MARGIN OF VICTORY ON SUCH KEY POLITICAL ISSUES AS KOREA AND KHMER THEREBY DEMONSTRATING AS THEY DID AT LAST SESSION (REFTEL) THAT, WHEN LA'S VOTE VIRTUALLY AS A BLOC, THEY OFTEN CONSTITUTE CRITICAL MARGIN OF VOTES ON ANY GIVEN ISSUE. LA SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AT UN DRAMATICALLY DIMINISHED AND THEY JOINED WITH REST OF "THIRD WORLD" TO SUPPORT CERDS, CHARTER REVIEW AND UN SECRETARIAT PAY INCREASE. BY END OF SESSION, CUBA HAD VIRTUALLY REINTEGRATED ITSELF INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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LA GROUP AT UN AND OBTAINED POSTS ON 3 UN BODIES, INCLUDING COMMITTEE OF 24. CHILE, ON OTHER HAND, WAS STEADILY HARRASSED BY SOVIET BLOC AND RADICAL NONALIGNED, WHICH PUSHED THROUGH SECOND AND THIRD COMMITTEE "HUMAN

RIGHTS" RESES ATTACKING CHILEAN JUNTA, ATTEMPTED IN SEVERAL COMMITTEES TO BLOCK CHILEAN COSPONSORSHIP OF RESES, AND SUCCEEDED IN DEFEATING CHILEAN CANDIDACY FOR POST ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. CUBANS DELIVERED Milder THAN USUAL ATTACKS ON "US COLONIALISM" IN PUERTO RICO. PANAMA CAREFULLY AVOIDED RAISING CANAL ISSUE. DRAMATIC ATTENTION-GETTING SPEECHES BY VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT PEREZ GUERREIRO AND FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT DURING GENERAL DEBATE NOT FOLLOWED UP DURING REST OF SESSION, POSSIBLY DUE TO LOW KEY PERSONALITY OF NEWLY ARRIVED VENEZUELAN PERMREP. NEWEST UN MEMBER FROM LA, "MINI-STATE" GRENADA, GENERALLY SUPPORTED US POSITIONS ACROSS THE BOARD AND FIELDLED A SERIOUS, HARD-WORKING DELEGATION. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE ONLY A FEW LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS (PARTICULARLY CUBA AND MEXICO) PLAYED LEADING ROLES AT THIS UNGA SESSION, THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP AS SUCH (25 MEMBERS EXCLUDING CUBA) CONTINUED TO PROVIDE US WITH OUR MOST SUBSTANTIAL REGIONAL SUPPORT ON SUCH KEY POLITICAL ISSUES AS CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION, KHMER CREDENTIALS AND KOREA. IN FACT, ON THESE THREE ISSUES WE WON ONLY BECAUSE THE GREAT MAJORITY OF LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS VOTED WITH US. TWELVE OF THE 28 COSPONSORS OF THE FRIENDLY KOREAN RES WERE LAS AND 19 LAS VOTED FOR IT (AS OPPOSED TO 6 FROM THE FAR EAST, 9 FROM AFRICA, AND 18 FROM WESTERN EUROPE AND CANADA). OF THE LAS ONLY CUBA VOTED AGAINST OUR KOREAN RES. LA VOTES WERE EVEN MORE CRUCIAL ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION AND KHMER CREDENTIALS WHERE THE MARGIN OF VICTORY WAS MUCH CLOSER. TWENTY LAS (INCLUDING ARGENTINA AND MEXICO) VOTED WITH US ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE AND ECUADOR SUPPORTED US ON THE SUBSTANTIVE VOTES. ON THE OTHER HAND, ONLY CUBA AND GUYANA CONSISTENTLY VOTED AGAINST THE KHMER REPUBLIC POSITION, WHILE JAMICA, PERU AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ABSTAINED.

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2. ON MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN QUESTIONS (WHERE WE ENGAGED IN MARKEDLY LESS LOBBYING), THE LATIN AMERICANS WERE MUCH LESS INCLINED THAN THEY WERE 2 OR 3 SESSIONS BACK TO SUPPORT THE US POSITION. ONLY BOLIVIA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (ALONG WITH THE US AND ISRAEL) VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE PLO AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINE PEOPLE AND INVITING ARAFAT TO ADDRESS THE UNGA PLENARY. CHILE, COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA, HOWEVER, JOINED BOLIVIA (THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WAS ABSENT) IN VOTING AGAINST TWO LATER RESOLUTIONS RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND GRANTING THE PLO PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS. CUBA, GUYANA AND PERU VOTED

IN FAVOR OF ALL THREE OF THE ABOVE RESOLUTIONS, WHILE JAMAICA, MEXICO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AND VENEZUELA VOTED IN FAVOR OF TWO OUT OF THE THREE. SIMILARLY, THE LAS SPLIT ON UNGA PRES BOUTEFILKA'S RULING SUSPENDING SOUTH AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP. TEN VOTED TO UPHOLD HIS RULING, 3 (COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR AND NICARAGUA) VOTED AGAINST, 10 ABSTAINED AND 3 (BAHAMAS, HONDURAS AND URUGUAY) WERE ABSENT.

3. IN SPITE OF SOLIDARITY ON SOME POLITICAL ISSUES (WHERE WE ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE LOBBYING) AND ON ECONOMIC RESOLUTIONS (CERDS) AS WELL AS CHARTER REVIEW (WHICH WE OPPOSED) THE LAS NEVERTHELESS DEMONSTRATED GREATER DIVISIVENESS AMONG THEMSELVES AT THIS SESSION THAN IN THE PAST. THE BY-NOW TRADITIONAL SPLIT BETWEEN THE CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS AND THE SPANISH SPEAKERS ON SUCH ISSUES AS BELIZE AND APPORTIONMENT OF SEATS ON UN BODIES WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DIFFERENCES OVER CUBA AND CHILE AND THE DEGREE OF ALLEGIANCE TO "NON-ALIGNED" POSITIONS. ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY GENERALLY OPPOSED RESOLUTIONS CRICIAL OF CHILE BUT MEXICO, CUBA AND THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN MEMBERS VOTED FOR ALL RESOLUTIONS CRITICIZING THE CHILEAN REGIME WITH THE OTHER LAS ABSTAINING. MEXICO, GUYANA, JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD - JOINED BY ARGENTINA - ALSO PUSHED WITHIN THE LA GROUP FOR THE REINTEGRATION OF CUBA INTO THE GROUP AND HELPED CUBA TO OBTAIN A SEAT FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE COMMITTEE
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OF 24. ARGENTINA, PERU, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND JAMAICA, ALTHOUGH "NONALIGNED", ABSTAINED ON THOSE POLITICAL ISSUES WHERE THE US LOBBIED STRONGLY AGAINST THE "NONALIGNED". HOWEVER, GUYANA VOTED ALMOST SOLIDLY WITH THE NONALIGNED (EXCEPT FOR ITS ABSTENTION ON THE FRIENDLY KOREA RES).

4. CUBA: CUBA CONTINUED ACTIVELY TO OPPOSE THE US ON VIRTUALLY EVERY ISSUE (EXCEPT FOR CHARTER REVIEW AND THE PAY RAISE). CUBAN PERMREP ALARCON, AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE ORATOR, AGAIN WAS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE FIGURES IN COMMITTEE AND PLENARY DEBATE. ALTHOUGH THE CUBAN DELEGATION TONED DOWN ITS ANTI-US RHETORIC TO SOME EXTENT DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE SESSION (PROBABLY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE QUITO MEETING), THE QUANTITY AND FEROCITY OF CUBAN ATTACKS AGAINST THE US INCREASED MARKEDLY AFTER QUITO. WHILE CUBA CONTINUED TO BELABOR THE PUERTO RICO ISSUES AT THIS SESSION IT FOCUSED MORE ON CHILE, PARTICULARLY ALLEGED US INVOLVEMENT IN ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW AND SUBSEQUENT INTERNAL REPRESSION. THUS CUBA DEMONSTRATED ITS GROWING RESPECTABILITY AT THE UN BY SUCCESSFULLY PRESSING ITS CANDIDACY FOR A LATIN AMERICAN SEAT ON BOTH THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND THE WORLD

FOOD COUNCIL. IT WAS ALSO REELECTED AS A CANDIDATE OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP TO THE UN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

5. CHILE: CUBA, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE RADICAL NONALIGNED LED BY ALGERIA PURSUED A FOUR-FRONT CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILE AT THIS SESSION AND SUCCEEDED IN MAKING IT ONE OF THE UN'S "PARIAHS". FIRST, THEY SUCCEEDED IN PASSING WITH LARGE MAJORITIES RESOLUTIONS CRITICIZING CHILE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND REQUESTING THE RELEASE OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA. THE INITIAL CHILEAN REACTION TO US ABSTENTION ON THE FORMER FES WAS QUITE HEATED BUT WITH NOT APPARENT LASTING EFFECT ON OUR CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE CHILEAN MISSION HERE). SECONDLY, THEY MADE A LESS SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE CHILE BY PREVENTING IT FROM SIGNING ON AS COSPONSOR OF THE SECOND AND SIXTH COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS. THEY SUCCEEDED, HOWEVER, IN DENYING TO CHILE ANY NEW PARTICIPATION ON UN BODIES SUCH AS THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CUBANS IN PARTICULAR MADE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE UN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION TO STAGE SEVERAL ANTI-JUNTA PRESS CONFERENCES AND ARRANGED FOR WELL PUBLICIZED MEETINGS OF JUNTA OPPONENTS, SUCH AS PRESIDENT ALLENDE'S WIDOW, WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. THE CHILEAN DELEGATION, WITH ONLY A HANDFUL OF PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS, WAS EXTRAORDINARILY INEPT IN ATTEMPTING TO DEFEND ITS INTERESTS. THE RIGHT WING POLITICIANS ATTENDING THE GA APPARENTLY THOUGHT THAT THE BEST WAY TO DEFEND CHILE WAS TO LAUNCH COUNTERATTACKS NOT ONLY ON SOCIET UNION AND CUBA BUT ON ALL OF CHILE'S CRITICS, INCLUDING THE US PRESS AND WESTERN EUROPEANS.

6. MEXICO: MEXICO NOT ONLY PLAYED ITS TRADITIONALLY ACTIVE ROLE ON DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS (SOMETIMES BEING HELPFUL TO THE US ON DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS BUT AFTER INTRODUCING TROUBLESOME AMENDMENTS, PARTICULARLY ON THE PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS ITEM.) IT FOCUSED ITS MAIN ENERGIES THIS SESSION ON THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES'. FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA AND MANY SENIOR MEXICAN DIPLOMATS WERE IN NEW YORK FOR A GOOD PART OF THE SESSION. OUR DIFFICULTIES IN NEGOTIATING THIS ISSUE WITH THE MEXICANS HAVE BEEN AMPLY DOCUMENTED ELSEWHERE. ALTHOUGH MEXICO ABSTAINED ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE KOREAN QUESTION, INCLUDING A KEY PROCEDURAL VOTE IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE EARLY IN THE SESSION, IT DID VOTE WITH US ON THE CAMBODIA REPRESENTATION ISSUE, FOLLOWING LAST MINUTE, HIGH LEVEL ARMTWISTING.

7. PANAMA: AT THIS SESSION OF THE UNGA, PANAMANIAN PERMREP BOYD CAREFULLY AVOIDED MENTIONING THE CANAL

ISSUE IN ANYTHING BUT A VERY LOW VOICE AND REPEATEDLY BROUGHT HIS BEHAVIOR TO THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF USUN. ALTHOUGH BOYD INITIALLY PLAYED SOMEWHAT HARD-TO-GET ON BOTH THE KOREAN AND KHMER ISSUES CLAIMING LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS, HE DID IN FACT VOTE WITH US ON ALL ASPECTS OF BOTH ISSUES.

8. ARGENTINA: SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST (POLITICAL) COMMITTEE THIS SESSION ARGENTINE PERMREP ORTIZ DE ROZAS AGAIN DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF AS ONE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE UN'S MOST ARTICULATE, SKILLED AND RESPECTED DIPLOMATS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO US BY HIS FIRM BUT IMPARTIAL HANDLING OF THE KOREAN ITEM.

HOWEVER, WITHIN THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP, HE WAS

ACTIVE IN ENCOURAGING CUBA'S READMISSION. IN CONTRAST WITH LAST YEAR, THE ARGENTINIANS DOWN-PLAYED IN THE FOURTH (DECOLONIZATION) COMMITTEE THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE WITH GREAT BRITIAN.

9. VENEZUELA: ALTHOUGH TWO CABINET MINISTERS (PEREZ GUERRERO AND SCHACHT) SPOKE IN GENERAL DEBATE EARLY IN THE SESSION AND WE WERE TREATED TO PRESIDENT PEREZ'S FULL PAGE REPLY TO PRES FORD IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, VENEZUELA HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY, POSSIBLY BECAUSE THE NEW, SOMEWHAT SELF-EFFACING PERMREP CONSALVIO IS STILL ADJUSTING TO THE UN ATMOSPHERE.

10. PUERTO RICO: ALTHOUGH CUBAN PERMREP ALARCON'S ATTACKS ON US POLICY IN PUERTO RICO IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE AND PLENARY WERE Milder THAN LAST YEAR, HIS REMARKS IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 IN THE PRESENCE OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE LEADERS WERE EXTREMELY VITUPERATIVE. PUERTO RICO, HOWEVER, WAS NOT A MAJOR ISSUE AT THIS SESSION. SCHAUFEL UNQTE KISSINGER

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